

To address threats posed by contamination at defense bases throughout the Mid-Atlantic states that are scheduled for realignment or closure, EPA Region III works closely with the Defense Department (DOD), state environmental representatives and other stakeholders to develop creative cleanup solutions. Often situated in locations with high redevelopment potential, these sites may be contaminated with fuels, various hazardous substances and unexploded ordnance which must be addressed before the facility can be transferred and redeveloped.

Interagency Agreements (IAGs) and Federal Facility Agreements (FFAs) between EPA, the state and DOD are some of the tools we use to facilitate faster, more effective, and less costly cleanup and reuse of these facilities. These agreements enable both long-term remedial and short-term removal actions to be performed at facilities listed on the NPL, Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) sites, or priority areas that don't fall into either category (see site listings to the right).

Community involvement is vital to cleanup progress. EPA in the Mid-Atlantic states fosters public participation by helping to establish restoration advisory boards (RABs) that bring community members, military officials and state and local regulators together to address cleanup issues. With these stakeholders working together, EPA believes economic recovery of communities affected by closing military bases can be expedited.

The Naval Air Warfare Center (NAWC) in Warminster is an 840-acre BRAC base in the suburbs of Philadelphia that has undergone long-term cleanup on the NPL. Once contaminated soil, drinking and ground water are addressed, local community

FEDERAL FACILITIES LISTED ON THE NPL

- Naval Support Station Mechanicsburg
- Tobyhanna Army Depot
- Willow Grove Naval Air & Air Reserve Station

BRAC SITES LISTED ON THE NPL

- Letterkenny Army Depot (2 listings)
- Naval Air Development Center (NADC) Warminster

BRAC SITES UNDERGOING CLEANUP

- Defense Supply Center Philadelphia
- Tacony Warehouse
- Philadelphia Naval Shipyard

OTHER FEDERAL SITES OF INTEREST

- CE Kelly Support Center
- Keystone Ordnance
- Valley Forge National Historical Park



Naval Air Warfare Center, Warminster: Constructing a groundwater treatment system.

members are poised for the complete transfer of the site to the private sector by the end of this year. To facilitate this transfer, a BRAC Cleanup Team comprised of Navy, EPA and State representatives have worked together to ensure that all necessary environmental work is completed prior to the transfer.

EPA Region III has participated in extensive groundwater investigations, removal of underground tanks and contaminated soil, and asbestos abatement activities at the Philadelphia Naval Complex since it was slated for closure in 1991. Today, this historic shipyard has been promised a 'new beginning'- the City of Philadelphia Industrial Development Corporation (PIDC) recently purchased 1100 of its 1400 acres, representing the largest transfer of federal property to a redevelopment authority in Region III's BRAC cleanup program. This successful transfer was thanks in part to EPA agreeing not to hold the new owners liable for existing contamination. Not only are local residents rejoicing, but the City of Philadelphia will ultimately benefit from plans that include a new industrial park, shipbuilding facility, and state-of-the-art commerce and distribution center.



Letterkenny Army Depot: Removal of almost 6,000 cubic yards of contaminated soil.



Letterkenny Army Depot: EPA and the Army conduct innovative pilot studies.

Moving westward, Region III and the Army partners are conducting several pilot studies to address contamination at the Letterkenny Army Depot, an active base near Chambersburg listed on the NPL. These innovative studies will ensure groundwater contaminated with volatile organic compounds (VOCs) is properly addressed. Study results may be used as alternatives in developing future feasibility studies at Letterkenny. Working with EPA, the Army has removed almost 6,000 cubic yards of PCB-contaminated soils at the base scrap yard, eliminating risk to human health and the environment and coming one step closer to completing this extensive project.